

**REMARKS****I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-3 and 6-9 are currently pending in the subject patent application. Claim 6 was amended to correct some typographical errors. Also, claims 1, 2, 3 and 6 are clarified.

**II. CLAIM OBJECTIONS**

Claim 6 was objected to due to informalities. Applicants have corrected the informalities to claim 6 as suggested by the Examiner.

**III. CLAIM REJECTIONS § 103**

Claims 1, 3, 6 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,730,533 to Noy ("Noy") in view of U.S. Patent 5,933,676 to Ohno ("Ohno"). Claim 2, 7 and 8 stand rejected over the combination of Noy and Ohno in further view of U.S. Patent 5,932,139 to Oshima ("Oshima").

Noy describes an apparatus for duplex printing on both sides of a sheet of paper. In the Office Action, the Examiner appears to assert the duplex printing against the recitations relating to printing on two "sides" of a mail piece, and the 180 degree inverting recitations that relate to printing images on both sides of the sheet. Applicants submit that Noy is not applicable because the rejected claims relate to printing on opposite sides of a single "front face" of the mailpiece, and not printing on both sides. In the claimed invention, depending on the orientation of the mailpiece a different inverted or non-inverting marking will be printed. Applicants have amended claims 1 and 6 to make this distinction even more clear. Accordingly, it is submitted that the duplex printing of Noy is inapplicable.

The Ohno and Oshima references does not cure this deficiency of Noy, and are asserted by the Examiner in connection with other features. Accordingly, it is submitted

that the § 103 rejections of independent claims 1 and 6, and their dependent claims 2, 3, and 7-9 should be withdrawn.

**IV. CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that pending claims 1-3 and 6-9 are in condition for allowance and favorable action thereon is requested. If the Examiner should have any questions, please contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully resubmitted,



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